

**REMARKS**

The Examiner required restriction of the claims to be prosecuted between Groups I-III, drawn to methods of treating a host infected with a drug-resistant strain of HBV that exhibits a mutation at codon 552 of the DNA polymerase with different classes of nucleosides; Groups IV-VI to methods of preventing or suppressing the expression of a mutation at codon 552 of the DNA polymerase region of HBV with different classes of nucleosides; Groups VI-IX to methods of preventing or suppressing the expression of a mutation at codon 552 and either 526 or 528 with different classes of nucleosides; and Groups X-XVIII, drawn to methods of Groups I-IX comprising additionally administering one or more other anti-HBV agents.

Applicants elect to pursue claims of Group I, including claims 1-4, 5 in part, 6-25 and 74-75 drawn to methods of treating a host infected with a drug-resistant strain of HBV with  $\beta$ -L-2'-deoxy-nucleosides (i.e. where X of Formula I is O or S).

The Examiner has additionally required an election of a species. Applicants elect the species depicted in claim 17 wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are each hydrogen. Applicants note that this compound falls within claim 1 and that this is not a restriction to that compound.

If the Examiner determines any additional fee is required associated with this Amendment or any other paper attached hereto, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account 11-0980.

Respectfully submitted,

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